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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,264	03/12/2004	Don Fishbein	52427-AA/JPW/GJG	8229
John P. White Cooper & Dunham LLP 1185 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036			EXAMINER HUGHES, ALICIA R	
			ART UNIT 1614	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/17/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/799,264

Applicant(s)

FISHBEIN, DON

Examiner

ALICIA R. HUGHES

Art Unit

1614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2 sheets.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Claims and Examination

Claims 30-47 are pending and the subject of this Office Action.

Applicants' arguments, filed on 30 June 2008, have been fully considered and are deemed to be persuasive regarding the previous rejection. Therefore, rejections and objections not reiterated from previous Office Actions are hereby withdrawn.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. §103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 30-40 and 42-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,090,799 [hereinafter referred to as "Berger"] in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,456,596 [hereinafter referred to as "Schaffer"].

The arguments supplied in this Office's Actions of 23 March 2007, 05 October 2007, and 30 June 2008 are incorporated herein by reference in total.

Applicant argues that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established over claims 30-47 for the following reasons: (1) the references used and the claimed invention are directed to different patient populations, weight loss etiologies for these populations are not the same, and the differing etiologies are of consequence and therefore, there is no demonstrable reasonable expectation of success; (2) Schaffer does not explicitly state that anabolic steroids are

used systemically to treat burns, but rather, refers to medicinal literature; (3) Berger and Schaffer are not combinable, because the technical fields of the two references differ; and (4) there are unexpected results.

As stated previously by this Office, that the patient populations vary and therefore, the etiologies behind their weight loss are not the same is inconsequential to the end result. The Applicants continue to persist that this is simply untrue, because "the nature of the weight loss impacts on whether a given treatment can promote weight gain in the patient suffering from weight loss" (Applicant's response of 30 June 2008 at page 2, para. 3) and in support of this position, note that patients with 40% burns, the rate is two times as high as in patients without burns (Applicant's response of 30 June 2008 at page 3, para. 2).

As noted prior, both populations have suffered weight loss and the prior art discloses that anabolic steroids, such as oxandrolone, foster an increase in appetite. If it is known in the art that oxandrolone fosters an increase in appetite, then it reasonably follows that the administration of oxandrolone would lead to weight gain. The reasoning behind the weight loss does not change the functionality of oxandrolone. Regardless of the reasoning, if one has lost weight and takes oxandrolone, he experiences an increase in appetite and subsequent increase in weight. The points that Applicants make go to a different issue and that is, the magnitude or extend to which there is weight gain in the population of patients. The Office does take note of the fact that patients with 40% burns have a metabolic rate twice as high as in patients without these burns. What this speaks to more than anything, would be the quantity and/or rate of weight gain rather than whether there is weight gain.

While Applicants argue that their reading of Schaffer does not render a teaching of the use of anabolic steroids to systemically treat burns The Office stands by its reading that Schaffer does provide the requisite teaching that supports a rendering of obviousness over the instant claims.

One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine the teachings of Berger and the teachings of Schaffer, because the patents teach overlapping subject matter, namely treatment using anabolic steroids. In light of the foregoing, and absent any evidence to the contrary, one would conclude that it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the administration of oxandrolone, in the dosages and dosage forms disclosed in the present invention, would be an effective method for promoting weight gain after weight loss for one who experiences loss of lean body mass due to burn-induced trauma.

Claims 30 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,090,799 [hereinafter referred to as “Berger”] in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,456,596 [hereinafter referred to as “Schaffer”] and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,434,146 [hereinafter referred to as “Labrie et al”].

The arguments, *supra*, related to the Berger and Schaffer references and in this Office’s previous action of 23 March 2007, 05 November 2007 and 30 June 2008 are incorporated herein by reference, in total. Applicant argues that this rejection fails to stand based on the alleged deficiencies of Berger as noted *supra*. The arguments in response thereto as noted in the first 103(a) rejection, *supra*, are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine the teachings of Berger and Schaffer with the teachings of Labrie et al., due to their overlapping subject matter, most

notably anabolic steroids. In view of the foregoing, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the administration of an effective amount of oxandolone in sustained release formulations would be effective for promoting weight gain after weight loss resulting from burn-induced trauma in a patient.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Hughes whose telephone number is 571-272-6026. The examiner can normally be reached from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel, can be reached at 571-272-0718. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Public PAIR only. For information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct-uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alicia R. Hughes/

Examiner, Art Unit 1614

/Raymond J Henley III/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1614